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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ORID-
ION BREATHID LTD.** [IL/IL]; Har Hotzvim Industrial
Area, P.O. Box 45025, 91450 Jerusalem (IL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GIRON, Boaz**
[IL/IL]; 7 Hameyasdim Street, 96224 Jerusalem (IL).
DAICH, Julian [AR/IL]; 21 Haham Shalom Street, 94516
Jerusalem (IL). **BEN-OREN, Ilan** [IL/IL]; 14/80 Kadish
Luz Street, 96920 Jerusalem (IL).

(74) Agents: **SANFORD T. COLB & CO.** et al.; P.O. Box
2273, 76122 Rehovot (IL).

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The application contains 7 independent claims, 6 of which are directed towards apparatuses, 1 towards a method. The claims are formulated as different selections taken from a large set of technical apparatus features, thereby making it impossible to identify which features are essential, and thus, where the claimed invention resides. In view of the number and also the wording of the independent claims presently on file, which render it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, the present application fails to comply with the clarity and conciseness requirements of Article 6 PCT (see also Rule 6.1(a) PCT) to such an extent that a meaningful search is impossible. Consequently, no search report can be established for the present application.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.